

[illegible]

A system, device, and method for receiver access control in a multicast communication network treats each subscriber location as a separate subnetwork having one and only one multicast receiver. An access device is situated at each subscriber location. Each access device connects to a separate port of a multicast distribution device. Each subscriber device accesses the multicast network through the access device that is situated at its subscriber location. Each access device acts as a proxy for its respective subscriber devices by joining and leaving multicast groups on behalf of the subscriber devices and acting as the sole multicast receiver for the subscriber location. The access devices run a multicast group management protocol for joining and leaving various multicast groups, and therefore the access devices appear to the multicast distribution device as the ultimate multicast receivers for multicast information. The access devices maintain group membership information their respective subscriber devices and distribute multicast information to their respective subscriber devices accordingly.